



**Date:** April 5, 2011

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Rhonda B. Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation  
**Subject:** Acceptance of Grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation

### **Executive Summary**

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation (BCBSNC Foundation) has awarded Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) a grant of \$5,000.00. The grant award is for the purchase of equipment and a storage facility for gardening programs at the City's Recreation facilities. There is no match required for the acceptance of this grant

### **Recommendation**

The Administration recommends that the City Council To authorize the City Manager to accept the 2011 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Healthy Eating Equipment Grant by executing the grant documents; and to adopt the City of Durham 2011 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Healthy Eating Equipment Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$5,000.

### **Background**

For the past several years, the Environmental Education unit of DPR has been working with the After School and Summer Day Camp programs at several recreation facilities to establish gardens. The gardens are used as learning opportunities for both environmental issues as well as nutrition. In addition, these gardens have also been opportunities for intergenerational instruction between Mature Adults and the youth. Currently there are four established garden sites: Edison Johnson Recreation and Aquatic Center, W. D. Hill Recreation Center, The Holton Career and Resource Center and the Birchwood Heights Community Center. DPR staff has been able to develop and maintain these gardens through many generous donations of equipment and materials. As the interest in gardening continues to grow, DPR identified the need for an inventory of gardening tools and equipment, and a storage facility that could be centrally located for staff to access. Funding from the BCBSNC Foundation will be used to acquire equipment as well as install a locked storage shed at the Edison Johnson Recreation and Aquatic Center. This equipment will be available for staff to use in gardening programs at recreation facilities. DPR anticipates establishing two (2) additional gardens at recreation facilities as a result of this grant.

**Issues/Analysis**

DPR staff has been maintaining the gardens without an inventory of tools such as shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows. Some facilities have purchased a few of these tools but none has enough for program participants to use. In addition, DPR staff has been borrowing equipment from other organizations and individuals for tasks such as tilling. This funding will allow DPR to establish an inventory of equipment and have a safe, central location to store the equipment.

**Alternatives**

The City Council could choose not to adopt the proposed grant project ordinance; DPR would not accept the grant from BCBSNC Foundation for the purchase of new equipment for the gardening programs.

**Financial Impact**

This grant does not require any matching funds. There is no known negative financial impact to receiving this grant.

**Attachments:**

Grant Project Ordinance for the 2011 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation Healthy Eating Equipment grant award  
Grant Award Letter (email) from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation